

Message Text

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41

ACTION SY-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9166

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 9017

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS

SUBJECT: PACKAGE BOMB BRITISH EMBASSY, BUENOS AIRES

A. ON DEC 11 SECURITY REPRESENTATIVE, BRITISH EMBASSY, BUENOS AIRES, FURNISHED TO RSO THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

1. THE COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY RECEIVED A PACKAGE WRAPPED IN BROWN PAPER AND TIED WITH A STRING (10 DEC 74). THIS PACKAGE MEASURED APPROXIMATELY 9 X 6 X 4". THE ADDRESS OF THE COUNCIL (LOCATION FROM WHICH COUNCIL OFFICE HAS BEEN MOVED FOR THREE YEARS) WAS ON A STRIP OF WHITE PAPER AFFIXED TO THE PACKAGE (STENCILED TYPE SCRIPT). THE PACKAGE BORE THE SEAL OF A POST OFFICE STAMP FROM BEIRUT; ALSO A BLUE AND WHITE REGISTRY LABEL (LETTER "R" FOLLOWED BY NUMBERS AND ARABIC SCRIPT). IN THE UPPER LEFT HAND CORNER WAS A BLUE INK STAMP IN ARABIC.

2. THE PARCEL WAS RECEIVED BY THE RECEPTIONIST SHORTLY AFTER THE NOON HOUR. SHE BECAME SUSPICIOUS OF ITS ORIGIN BECAUSE IT FELT AS THOUGH IT CONTAINED TWO BOOKS BUT WAS BELIEVED TO BE HEAVIER THAN WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. SENIOR BRITISH OFFICER IN THE COUNCIL WAS INFORMED. SECURITY GUARD PROCEEDED TO THE COUNCIL AND SUBSEQUENTLY REQUESTED ASSISTANCE OF A GOA EXPLOSIVE TEAM.

3. THE COUNCIL STAFF WAS RELEASED FROM WORK ON AN EARLY LUNCH BREAK. FEDERAL POLICE EXPLOSIVE TEAM ARRIVED, ACCEPTED THE PACKAGE AND PLACED IT IN A STAIRCASE OUTSIDE OF THE ACTUAL

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OFFICE AREA. THE PACKAGE WAS DETONATED. THE EXPLOSION SHOOK THE

BUILDING AND WAS OF A VELOCITY WHICH ENABLED IT TO BE HEARD TWO OR THREE BLOCKS AWAY. TWO WINDOWS AND THE CEILING IMMEDIATELY ABOVE THE AREA WHERE THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED WERE CRACKED. LAMP SHADES WITHIN THE AREA WERE SHATTERED AND SCAR MARKS WERE LEFT ON THE WALL. THE POLICE CONFIRM THAT THE BOMB WAS OF SUFFICIENT POWER TO KILL ANYONE OPENING IT.

4. IN THE DEBRIS OF THE BOMB WAS FOUND SECTIONS OF THE BINDING OF A BOOK ENTITLED "KIM II SUN" OBRAS COMPLETAS (COMPETE WORKS). OTHER DEBRIS ALSO INDICATED THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN IN SPANISH. INVESTIGATING POLICE OFFICER GAVE THE OPINION THAT IN SPITE OF THE BEIRUT ADDRESS THE BOMB COULD HAVE BEEN OF ARGENTINE ORIGIN.

B. RSO'S COMMENT. ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE IS IN PREPARATION BRINGING TO THE ATTENTION OF STAFF PERSONNEL VARIOUS STEPS WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN IN THE HANDLING OF INCOMING MAIL. THESE INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDED ADVISE FOR FAMILIES AND DOMESTICS. BOTH CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED MAIL ROOMS OF THE EMBASSY WERE ALERTED TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR PACKAGES WITH THE SAME CHARACTERISTICS AS THOSE DESCRIBED IN THE BRITISH REPORT. THE BRITISH SECURITY OFFICER COULD FURNISH NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SINCE TO HIS KNOWLEDGE NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO PHOTOGRAPH AND X-RAY THE PACKAGE.
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